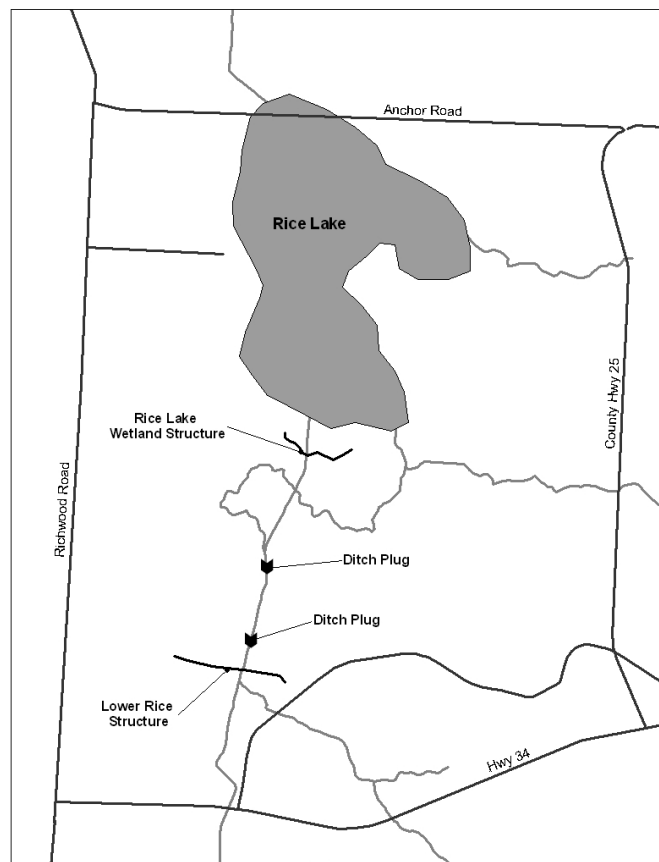


Rice Lake Nutrient Reduction Project

The Rice Lake Nutrient Reduction Project will reduce total phosphorus (TP) loading to downstream recreational water bodies including Detroit, Sallie and Melissa Lakes by 1,200-1600 kg/yr. The Rice Lake wetland will increase from its current area of 434 acres to pre-ditched water levels of approximately 896 acres, thereby restoring natural wetland hydrology conditions. The project area flowage rights include private lands (503 acres), MN DNR Wildlife Management area (510 acres), and City of Detroit Lakes land (145 acres).

Since 2003, the District is jointly working on this project with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). From 2003-07, The NRCS- Small Watershed Assistance group conducted an in-depth assessment study on Rice Lake wetland to analyze best management practices for reducing phosphorus exports, with wetland restoration selected as the most technically feasible option. The NRCS Wetland Reserve Program ("straight WRP") is assisting with private land easements on program eligible properties. However, since no MN RIM funds are involved (other projects rank higher due to wildlife benefit) the District is making up the land rights payment difference on 405 acres (\$172,000-PRWD; \$345,000-NRCS WRP). Currently, the District is using a MPCA Clean Water Partnership (CWP) loan (\$450,000) to pay the WRP rate difference and also for properties not eligible for WRP (less than 7 yr ownership, small acreage). PRWD land rights acquisition costs are totaling \$577, 516. The District is nearing completion of property acquisition (latter 2010) and needs to secure additional funding for project engineering costs. NRCS is committed to project construction costs; however, they are requesting the District pay for engineering designs estimated at \$250,000 (construction estimated between \$1.2 – \$2.0 Million).

There are a number of governmental agencies involved with the project. The Rice Lake project technical committee, formed in early 2005, has agency representation from the ACOE, NRCS, BWSR, DNR, MPCA, and Becker SWCD. The committee meets on a regular basis to review project status and provide agency assistance. Other non-government project stakeholders are the affected landowners, Lake Detroiters Lake Association and the Detroit Lakes Chamber of Commerce.



Map of Project Area

Project Partners, Timeline and Funding Sources for the Rice Lake Restoration Project

Item	Project Partners	Timeline	Status	Cost/Funding
Watershed Plan Environmental Assessment	NRCS- Small watershed group	2005-2007	Completed	\$500,000 - NRCS
Land Rights \$1,277/acre or buyout				
A. Private flowage easements PRWD acquired - 98 acres	MPCA - CWP	2008-May 2010	12 completed 4 in progress	\$50,000 CWP grant completed \$356,000 CWP loan
B. Private flowage easements WRP with PRWD match *No RIM fund match*	NRCS	Aug 2009 - present	9 of 14 signed 2010 completion date	\$345,000- NRCS \$172,000- PRWD/ CWP loan
C. City of Detroit Lakes land easements - 145 Acres	City of Detroit Lakes	Nov-09	Completed	Donated
D. State and Federal land easements - 510 Acres	MN DNR, USFWS	Upon completion of private land rights	In progress	Donated
Project Engineering – Construction designs	Clean Water Fund/BWSR	2010	To be completed	\$250,000 Clean Water Fund/BWSR grant request
Construction*	NRCS	2011-2012	To be completed	\$1.2-2 Million - NRCS
* Construction Includes: Rice Lake structure (access road, concrete structure, embankments, dewatering); Ditch channel improvements (ditch plugs, removal of spoil banks); Lower Rice Lake structure (access road, concrete structure, embankments, dewatering); Anchor Road improvements and access parking				

The restoration will increase the depth and duration of inundation on the partially drained Rice Lake Wetland creating more natural wetland hydrology conditions. The project will increase the wetland depths by an average of 2.0 feet by the construction of two dam structures, Anchor road elevation improvements, and ditch modifications (plugs, spoil bank removal). In addition to the water quality benefits, approximately 78 additional acres of Type I wetland vegetation will be restored as well as approximately 462 acres of Type 2 through 7 wetlands will be created or enhanced. This expansion includes 178 acres of Type 3 wetland to enhance needed primary brooding and nesting habitat for several species of migratory waterfowl.